

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 534

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1679

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19458

ROME FOR US MISSION FAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESCAP, AORG

SUBJECT: ESCAP: BUDGET AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS

REF: BANGKOK 19256 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ESCAP ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEF ROY SMITH FLEW TO UN
NEW YORK JULY 3 TO SEEK EXTRA BUDGETARY FUNDS FOR ESCAP
AND ALSO PRESS ESCAP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS' REORGANIZA-
TION PROPOSAL DESCRIBED PARA 3 REFTEL AND PREVIOUS. END
SUMMARY.

1. SMITH IS ASKING NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS FOR AN ADDITIONAL
\$800,000 TO COVER ESCAP OPERATING EXPENSES IN ITS NEW \$7
MILLION OFFICE BUILDING. UNDER FORMER AGREEMENT WITH ROYAL
THAI GOVERNMENT, ESCAP (FORMERLY ECAFE) PAID \$25,000 ANNUALLY
FOR ELECTRICITY NEEDED IN SALA SANTITHAM AND ADJACENT
NETHERLANDS BUILDING. SINCE JANUARY 1, 1976, ESCAP'S
MONTHLY ELECTRICAL BILL AVERAGES \$17,000. LIGHTS AND AIR
CONDITIONING IN THIS FOURTEEN STORY BUILDING HAVE BEEN
REDUCED BUT COSTS HAVE NOT DIMINISHED. SMITH DID NOT APPEAR
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HOPEFUL HE COULD OBTAIN ALL HE REQUESTED.

2. SMITH HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MARAMIS TO PUSH HIS REORGANIZATION PLAN WITH UN UNDER SECRETARY DAVIDSON. SMITH IS UNHAPPY WITH POLITICAL OVERTONES (HE HAS ACTUALLY WRITTEN UNNNY FRIENDS OPPOSING THE IDEA) BUT WILL CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS. AT RECENT FIRST SESSION POPULATION COMMITTEE, THAILAND SUGGESTED DISCUSSING MARAMIS PLAN TO PUT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION CHIEF NEKUNAM (IRANIAN) IN CHARGE OF POPULATION DIVISION PLUS WOMEN AND YOUTH SECTIONS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. INDONESIA REP (WHO USUALLY SPEAKS FOR MARAMIS) WITH PHILIPPINE SUPPORT DECLARED COMMITTEE HAD NO RIGHT TO DISCUSS SECRETARIAT ORGANIZATION. POPULATION DIVISION CHIEF FRISEN ADVISED DELEGATION TO QUOTE LET MATTER REST UNQUOTE BECAUSE HE COULD NOT COMMENT.

3. JAPANESE AND OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THIS REORGANIZATION PLAN IS REALLY NOT AIMED AT POPULATION OR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISIONS. IT IS AIMED BASICALLY AT OBTAINING FULL ESCAP CONTROL OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION CHIEF SLOT. BY COMBINING TWO DIVISIONS UNDER ONE IRANIAN HEAD (RECOGNIZED BY MANY AS INCOMPETENT BUT MARAMIS PROMISES TO REMOVE HIM IN TWO YEARS), MARAMIS GAINS A SLOT OF HIS OWN WHICH HE CAN FILL TO ASIAN SATISFACTION THEREBY ENSURING ASIAN SUPPORT FOR THREE YEAR EXTENSION OF HIS PRESENT TERM WHICH ENDS IN AUGUST. MAN PICKED FOR AGRICULTURE SLOT IS 40-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST NAMED SHINDO WHO IS GRADUATE OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. THIS INFO RECONFIRMED BY FAO/ESCAP AGRICULTURE DIVISION ACTING CHIEF BILLINGSLEY WHO CLAIMS MARAMIS MAY EVEN HAVE OBTAINED RELUCTANT APPROVAL FROM FAO SECRETARY GENERAL SAOUMA TO LET ESCAP HAVE ITS OWN AGRICULTURE DIVISION CHIEF. REPORTS FROM ROME ARE MIXED. JAPAN, APPARENTLY LONG IRRITATED WITH FAO QUOTE RICH EUROPEAN FARMERS CLUB UNQUOTE HAS BEEN LONGING FOR A HIGH LEVEL ASIAN AGRICULTURAL POSITION AND MARAMIS MAY NOW HAVE OBTAINED IT. OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIANS ARE ALSO PLEASED BUT INDIA'S POSITION IS ENIGMATIC: THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN CARZY ABOUT MARAMIS BUT NATURALLY SUPPORT HIGH LEVEL ASIAN POSITION IN AGRICULTURE. PRICE INDIA CHARGES FOR ITS SUPPORT IS STILL UNCLEAR.

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4. COMMENT: DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOT TOO SURPRISING IF ONE ACCEPTS PREMISE THAT UN EMPLOYEES' MAIN MISSION IN LIFE IS TO SURVIVE AN EQUIVALENT OR HIGHER RATES OF PAY. MARAMIS HAS CERTAINLY DONE THIS, IF HIS PLAN IS FINALLY ACCEPTED. THE COST OF THESE POLITICAL CHANGES TO EMPLOYEE MORALE AND OUTPUT WILL JUST BE WRITTEN OFF - BUT THEN AGAIN, WHO HAS PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO ESCAP OUTPUT RECENTLY? WHITEHOUSE

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